

A CLERICAL SENSATION.

Brother George H. Stuart's Corruption of Worship.

Two Boards of Trustees Wrangling for Possession—Synodical Mandates Disregarded—The Case Brought Before the Courts—A Now York Newspaper Clerk Charged With Venality—A Reverend Gentleman Denounced as a Liar—Live Scene in Court.

PHILADELPHIA, April 1, 1871.

Chicago has a first class religious sensation in the trial of Rev. Charles E. Chesney, a disenter from a minor canon of the Episcopal church. Philadelphia has its first class religious sensation in the case of the First Reformed Presbyterian church vs. the Synod, a question having arisen as to which part of the church should govern it, collect pew rents, disburse money and, in fine, control the finances and direct the affairs of the church.

THE CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED

In 1800, the congregation then worshipped in a small house in Carson's court, Soth street, near Front; they afterward moved to St. Mary's street, where they remained for several years. In the year 1816 they built a new church on Eleventh street, below Market, but the congregation was increasing so fast that they sold the property, and with the proceeds and subscriptions built the church they now occupy on Broad street, below Spruce, and which is the subject of controversy between the rival factions. The church was dedicated April 30, 1844; the congregation worshipped harmoniously together until 1867, when an effort was made to take the property into another ecclesiastical connection. The difficulties that arose in connection with the subject culminated in January, 1868, when both parties endeavored to elect a board of trustees favorable to their views. Two "stewards" were appointed on each side, and the voters passed up in front of the tenors and deposited their votes, and no vote was deposited except or apprehension of the tellers of both factions. The challenges only were made during the day, and the votes were admitted after some examinations.

WHEN THE VOTES WERE COUNTED

It was found that the party opposed to George H. Stuart had by forty-one majority. Stuart then alleged that he had been compelled to cast his vote by parties who had been suspended for non-payment of new rent, &c. The plumbings, on the other hand, claim that all the votes were legal, and that all who voted had produced receipts for new rents; that these were not checked against them, and that they were duly entitled to vote, the same as any other members of the church.

To satisfy Stuart and his party they and the old Board of Trustees, who were candidates for election, were allowed to examine the rolls, with the understanding that they should report on the following Monday evening, when the new board must organize, according to the provisions of the charter.

While the trustees were organizing the old board (the Stuart party) they charged the new board with being unchristian, and that the understanding that they should report on the following Monday evening, when the new board must organize, according to the provisions of the charter, was violated.

Both sides, however, were candidates for election, and were allowed to examine the rolls, with the understanding that they should report on the following Monday evening, when the new board must organize, according to the provisions of the charter.

The case is attracting much attention, both from the religious and secular press. The Herald being a religious sheet, its opinions are eagerly looked for by parties to the suit.

Brewster and Sergeant Price. It has been before the Court during the whole March term, dragging its slow and weary length along, yet those interested are not without hope that a decision will be arrived at next week. The evidence is all in and the arguments will begin Monday next, April 3.

occurred on Friday afternoon last. Rev. Dr. McDonald, of New York, arose with a copy of the Tribune in his hand and asked the privilege of making a statement.

Judge Williams—We cannot admit your statement.

MCCLOUD—I have been slandered by this paper and by others.

Judge W.—We must request you to be silent.

McCLOUD (very excited)—I wish to ask if there is no redress for a man in this court whose private character has been assailed.

Judge W.—This court has no jurisdiction in the premises; you must sue the publisher.

McCLOUD—I know of a case where the Tribune was paid fifty dollars for publishing something not long since. I had it traced; it was neither an English reporter that did it, but a clerk who took the money.

Judge Porter—If you mean that for my client (Stuart) it's an infamous libel!

It was only by promptly adopting the most decided course that the author of the article was exposed and the business of the court unclouded.

Judge Brewster, senior counsel for relators, in an elaborate motion to quash, says:—"The whole case may be regarded as logical and consistent put in plain English, and the facts, though not in fact fairly presented, may be regarded as conclusive which cannot be successfully impeached."

According to the provisions of the charter of the First Reformed Presbyterian church of Philadelphia, articles 2 and 3 of the By-laws provide as follows:

1. To be trustee of the First Reformed Presbyterian church of Philadelphia it is necessary to be in full communion with the church in the Commonwealth.

2. To be a member in full communion with the church in the Commonwealth in the authority of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

3. To be a trustee of the First Reformed Presbyterian church of Philadelphia it is necessary to be in full communion with the church in the authority of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

4. A private trustee of the First Reformed Presbyterian church of Philadelphia, whose function is to be in full communion with the church in the authority of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

5. To be a member in full communion with the church in the authority of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

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